

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 2 of 14

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IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vehicle radio system, comprising:

a radio receiver that is configured to receive a radio signal and a first channel-specific phoneme string from a broadcast station, said first phoneme string associated with a first channel number;

a microphone that is configured to receive an audible from an operator of the vehicle radio system and generate an audible signal from said audible; and

a tuning module configured to receive said radio signal from said radio receiver and said audible signal from said microphone[;], said tuning module comprising:

a storage module configured to store [[a]]said first phoneme string and [[a]]said first channel number associated with said first phoneme string;

a voice recognition engine configured to compare a phoneme in said audible signal with said first phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

a tuner configured to tune said radio receiver to said first channel number when said voice recognition engine ~~identifies~~ determines that said phoneme [[as]]corresponds to said first phoneme string.

Claim 2 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a second channel number associated with said second phoneme string;

said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

said tuner is configured to tune said radio receiver to said second channel number when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 3 is cancelled.

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 3 of 14

Claim 4 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a first programming format associated with said second phoneme string;

said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

said tuner is configured to tune said radio receiver to a second channel number associated with said first programming format when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

Claim 6 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said radio signal transmitted by said broadcast service is a digital radio signal.

Claim 7 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said broadcast service is a satellite broadcast service.

Claim 8 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a first functional command associated with said second phoneme string; and

said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module and request said first functional command when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claim 10 (original): The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first phoneme string is a phonetic spelling of said first channel number.

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 4 of 14

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of operating a vehicle radio system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first radio signal channel and a first phoneme string associated therewith from a broadcast station;

storing the frequency of the first radio channel and the first phoneme string received from the broadcast station;

receiving an audible from an operator of the vehicle radio system;

generating an audible signal from said audible;

~~storing a first phoneme string and a first channel number associated with said first phoneme string;~~

comparing the audible signal to the first phoneme string ~~a phoneme in said audible signal with said first phoneme string;~~ and

tuning to the frequency of the first radio channel when the audible signal corresponds to the first phoneme string ~~said first channel number when said comparing said phoneme in said audible with said first phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said first phoneme string.~~

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

~~said storage module is configured to store~~ receiving a second phoneme string and a second channel number associated with said second phoneme string;

comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

tuning said radio receiver to said second channel number when said comparing said phoneme in said audible with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 13 is cancelled.

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 5 of 14

Claim 14 (original): The method system as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

storing a second phoneme string and a first programming format associated with said second phoneme string; comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

tuning said radio receiver to a second channel number associated with said first programming format when said comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 15 (original): The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said first programming format is a sports programming format.

Claim 16 (original): The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said radio signal is a digital radio signal.

Claim 17 (original): The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said broadcast service is a satellite broadcast service.

Claim 18 (original): The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
storing a second phoneme string and a first functional command associated with said second phoneme string; and comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

requesting said first functional command when said comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

Claim 19 (original): The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said functional command is a volume command.

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 6 of 14

Claim 20 is cancelled.

Claim 21 (new): A method of operating a vehicle radio system including a microphone and a tuner, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first radio channel and the phonetic spelling of at least one word associated therewith;

generating a first phoneme string from the phonetic spelling;

storing the first phoneme string and the frequency of the radio channel in a look-up table;

registering a voice command with the microphone;

comparing the voice command with the first phoneme string; and

tuning the tuner to the frequency of the first radio channel when the registered voice command corresponds to the first phoneme string.

Claim 22 (new): A method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the vehicle radio system further comprises a transceiver and the method further comprises emitting a request for the phonetic spelling of at least one word associated with the first radio station.

Claim 23 (new): A method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising;

receiving a plurality of radio channels and the phonetic spelling of at least one word associated with each of the plurality of radio channels;

generating a plurality of phoneme strings for each of the phonetic spellings; and

storing the plurality of phoneme strings and the plurality of radio channels in the look-up table such that each of the plurality of phoneme strings is associated with a different one of the plurality of radio channels;

comparing the voice command to the phoneme strings stored in the look-up table; and

tuning the tuner to the frequency of the radio channel associated with a phoneme string corresponding to the voice command.

US Serial No. 10/646,559
Reply to Office Action mailed June 13, 2006
Page 7 of 14

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SEP 11 2006

Claim 24 (new): A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein the at least one word comprises a radio station call name.

Claim 25 (new): A method as set forth in claim 21 further comprising:
receiving the phonetic spelling of a second word associated with the first radio channel;
generating at a second phoneme string from the phonetic spelling of the second word;
storing the second phoneme string in a look-up table such that said second phoneme string is associated the first radio channel;
registering a voice command with the microphone;
comparing the voice command with the second phoneme string; and
tuning the tuner to the frequency of the first radio channel when the registered voice command corresponds to the second phoneme string.